MARCH 1973

2p

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

88 Red Lane,
Bolton.

March 1973

Dear Friends,

Quite a number of people in our churches have been surprised to hear about the kind of activities in which their children have been engaged in the various departments of Junior Church. Some people have even suggested that our children are not being taught enough about the Bible, or religion, or even about God Himself.

If I may be quite frank, I am more concerned about what the majority of adults in our churches do when, after worshipping together, their children leave for their respective departments of the Junior Church.

It seems to me that many of the children of our churches are already understanding, and appreciating, life. Sadly, many adults have not yet grasped this truth completely. I am meeting more and more people who think that their worship of God with the people of the Church is an activity that is not specially related to the lives that they live at home, at work, or at leisure. Quite simply, many people think that it is more important to come to church, than to be the Church. Some people think that the church is for them because they happen to be interested in the spiritual side of life. But the truth that the Church is a group of people who have important work to do, whether they're gathered together on church premises, or scattered in the community, is a puzzle to many people.

Could it be that the growing children of our Junior Churches are going to help us to worship God, and to be the Church, more effectively?

The fact that the majority of our churches are not prepared to change the traditional pattern of

worship, is obviously an indication of its value to us. But should we not be thinking of our young people whom we hope are going to join with us in the next few years? When the children and young people of our Junior Churches have been encouraged to question, to make their own discoveries, to express their own thoughts, and to seek for God who is as present in the world as in the Church; is it reasonable for the adults of our churches to expect that young people will accept, and be prepared to share in, a form of worship that gives them so little opportunity of making their contribution, as they have been used to doing in their departments of the Junior Church?

Clearly, the children of our churches are following a very different programme from when today's adults were children in Sunday School. The Church too has certainly changed the language of its worship through contemporary prayers, modern translations of the Bible, contemporary hymns, and through relevant preaching. But have we changed enough? I know that for many people in our churches the sermon is considered to be the most important part of our worship, and I would not wish preaching to disappear from our worship. But as a regular part of our worship, is it reasonable for us to expect that young adults listen to a discourse without their having any opportunity of questioning or making their own comments on the subject? If our answer to this question is "NO", then I think that the future pattern of our worship in the adult section of our Family Church should be given urgent consideration in our Church Meetings. When a church faces an interregnum, it is an ideal time for this subject to be discussed and acted upon.

Thank you for inviting me to write this letter. I was glad to be with you last month.

With sincere wishes,

J. Barry Hawksworth.

LAY PREACHERS' FELLOWSHIP

On the 12th February the first United Fellowship meeting was held at Alkrington United Reformed Church. Revd. D. Whitehead presided and welcomed the 18 Lay Preachers who were present. The purpose of the meeting being to decide the form (if any) of a Lay Preachers' fellowship within this N.E. Manchester District of the United Reformed Church. It was resolved that the following recommendation be submitted to the District for consideration:

> That the Lay Preachers from the three areas of the N.E. Manchester District now form one fellowship to serve the Churches of the District as required.

The following members were unaminously elected into office:

Chairman.....Mr. A. Roberts
Treasurer.....Mr. E. Fallows
Secretary.....Mrs. E. Gillon

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MILNROW NEWS

Tuesday 20th March at 7.30 p.m. – F A S H I O N S H O W (by Harwood's of Shaw)

Tickets 15p

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Friday 30th March at 7.30 p.m. – "Y U G O S L A V I A" Slides presented by Mr. & Mrs. R. Gillon

Tickets (including refreshments) 12p
Children 6p...(pay at the door)

Slides of the Heaton Street Garden Party will be available at "sale" price.

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Mr. & Mrs. H. Mellor would like to thank all those who were so helpful while Harry was in hospital. We are glad to see you recovered so quickly, Harry.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the recent meeting of the Finance Committee it was decided that:

- Central heating should be provided at the Manse. An expensive project but one which needs doing soon.
- Considerable fund raising efforts will be required involving all groups within the Church.
- The CWS Band should give a concert at Roch Valley School in November. This will cost about £100 to present and it will be vital to sell every ticket in order to make a handsome profit.
- Next Autumn we should try to organise more social events. Each group within the church may be asked to arrange a function so that we can all have at least one "gettogether" per month.

All this is a hurried way of stressing two things:

First: the condition of our balance sheet is not healthy.

Second: the social life of the church needs a boost.

Please think about these matters within your own little groups and if you have any ideas pass them on to members of the Finance Committee, i.e. to Mrs. Settle or Messrs. Busill, Clough, Gillon, Roberts and Royle. They need all the ideas they can get, and as they get the ideas they will report them back to you.

P.S.

Covenant Giving is not just for millionaires.

Covenant Giving will not cost you any more than you already give.

How does it work?

FIRST THINGS

During the past few weeks, several V.I.P's have visited the PRIMARY Department to add interest to the theme for the month. If you heard strange noises coming from the Primary room several Sundays ago, it would most likely be the steam engine which Mr. Roy Howarth brought along for a demonstration. The following week P.C. Baines was guest of honour complete with helmet, truncheon and handcuffs.

The next visitor was "Mr. Jenkins", not the fellow who used to work here, but one who is gold and swims round in a bowl all day. The children were eager to give him his Sunday lunch, of "ant's eggs a la Stephen's."

On February 18th, the BEGINNERS Department joined us to hear Mrs. Gillon talk about animals. She also brought some lovely coloured slides which Stephen Thornton from the Senior Department projected to us. "Rusty" the Howarth Hamster, was present that day too - another animal that went home well fed.

The teachers and children wish to thank Della, Jonathan, Martin and Stephen for pets and services rendered.

No thanks are recorded to "Twinkle" Royle, the agnostic cat which escaped while being carried to church. Perhaps it's a "Mouselem"!

THINGS TO COME

Sunday morning the 8th April will be a"Friends Morning" for the Creche, Beginners and Primary departments. Children will be invited to bring a friend who does not normally go to Junior Church.

The teachers are also planning to visit the parents of all children whose names are on the cradle roll.

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RING A DING - The Pilot Captain and Officers wish to thank Mr. & Mrs. T. Millington of Raines Crest for the gift of a ships bell which formerly used to ring 8 bells on the good ship "Tim Bobbin."

GLADDIS ALYWARD

"Gladdis Alyward wanted to become a missionary. She went to the cheif missionary to find if she could be one. The cheif missionary said Gladdis you are only a woman most of the people are men. Gladdis was very brave and She went to the travel agent and asked if she could go to China by train but its very expensive he said. Gladdis paid him bit by bit and when She paid She went. She went to China. She adopted many children. And the war started and she took all her children up to the hill and not one was hurt and she went down the hill and met the cheif missionary and he said how did you do it?"

.....John Lynch (Pilots)

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ANN ....AWAY

"Geneology" was the subject of the talk given to the Women's Guild 6th February. "Geneology" (which our various contributors found very hard to spell) is the study of family trees and ancestors. Some of the 29 ladies who heard the excellent talk by Mrs. Ashworth have since begun to explore their own pedegrees to see if fame and fortune passed them by or alternatively to seek out the skeletons in the family cupboard. Mrs. Ashworth's talk was filled with many interesting and amusing stories; for instance, do you know what W. Shakespeare esq. left his wife? A second hand bed!

A presentation was also made to Mrs.Ann Whitworth who is going to live at the seaside. We wish her and Frank all the very best for the future.

(For those who didn't understand the headline: Ann HATHaway)

SING OUT!

Choir practices start on March 9th.....7.30 pm.prompt. ....For "Olivet to Calvary".... on Palm Sunday..... ....Come and help out.....also we are still looking for babysitters to help out husband and wife teams.

GETTING TO KNOW.....(7)

M A D A G A S C A R

WHERE IS IT? An island 1,000 miles long, 350 wide in the Indian Ocean, about 250 miles east of Africa.

WHO LIVES THERE? Various Malagasy tribes: from South East Asia and the Pacific islands.

WHAT COLOUR? Dark Brown.

Six million people live in this great island. Mostly Malagasy, but some Chinese and Pakistanis too. Also a few Europeans. It works out at only 14 to the square mile. In Britain there are 750 to the square mile.

Getting about in Madagascar is a bit tricky. The railways don't reach out very far from the capital city and the roads are not all that good. A great many people ride in ox-carts still. Many just walk. The best way is by air. The big jets come in from Europe and the East, and smaller aircraft cover the island in a network of routes.

There are too many people to fit into the fine houses in the suburbs of the modern cities. If you haven't got a job you can't afford a nice house. So you live in a slum built on the slopes of the hills. Little boxes that look pretty grim and can't be much fun to live in. Lots of children there; too many for the schools to cope with. Every school is crammed to the doors, and still they can't all get in. If they can't get to school they won't get a job. If they don't get a job they can't get out of the slum.

Madagascar is gradually becoming more industrial - but there are still more people working on the farms. Most of the food eaten there is grown in the island. So the church does a great deal of its works in the country districts where most of the people are.

A MUSICIAN PRAYS

Help me to make music to praise you O Lord:

Some say that Sweitzer was a saint, some say a beast; I think, the way he played the organ, he was human.

Driving a car, or playing golf, or hosts of other ploys, they say brings out the worst in us..... but music, real music, makes us at our best. My test for music - and men.

Help me to make music to praise you O Lord:

I wonder if the Psalmist led the pop festival of his day? Maybe I'm just old fashioned, but so much sound today I cannot listen to, so many songs are plain unsingable: yet there is a young music, it sometimes strikes a chord for me, it is exciting, and hopeful, and poignant, and real.

Help me to make music to praise you O Lord.

A skill brings its own satisfaction, and it isn't really another language, or a mystique, or an ultimate form of expression.
Just a uniquely human joy.
Help me to make music to praise you O Lord.
Amen.

A PRAYER

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me.....
May that song
make rich my life:
Rich in sharing
Rich for others,
Rich in every beauty love transforms.
Through Jesus Christ,
Amen.

....(Congregational Prayer Fellowship Handbook)

MARRIAGE

On February 24th at Littleborough:
FRANK INGHAM of Norman Road, Rochdale, to MARY JONES of Todmorden Road, the Revd. C.R. Wyatt, a former minister officiated. We send our best wishes and congratulations to Frank and Mary.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. S. RAMSDEN of 127 Grove Lane, Timperley, died on Sunday 11th February, aged 78 years.

Mr. Simpson writes:

"It is about 19 years since Mr. Ramsden moved from Littleborough to Timperley but those who knew him will always remember this quiet-spoken man who had the church at heart and especially the children and young people of the church.

His services included church membership, Deacon, Church Secretary and over 25 years in the Sunday School, part of the time as Superintendent.

He was friend and councillor of all who sought his advice. He was wise, patient and diplomatic and he always used his experience of life to emphasise that good will overcome evil.

We missed him when he left the district but we were thankful for the opportunity to have shared some part of his life. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Ramsden and all their relatives."

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The death was announced in the national press on Thursday 1st March of the REVD. J.A. FIGURES, who passed away in a Leeds hospital aged 67 years.

He was a former Moderator of the North West Congregational Province and up to 1970 he was secretary of the Lancashire Congregational Union having come to Lancashire in 1956 after holding a similar post in Yorkshire. In 1964-5 he was Chairman of the Congregational Union for England and Wales and was one of the leading architects of the new United Reformed Church.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING - at Littleborough

We were happy to welcome our interim moderator, Revd. R.A.C. West M.A., as chairman for the Annual Church meeting on Tuesday 30th January.

27 members were present and reports were received from the secretaries of the various organisations. Mr. J. Lord was elected to the office of Vice-Chairman. The only resignation was that of our caretaker, Mrs. B. Holt. Mrs, Joan Grindrod of 40 Ealees Road, has taken her place. The other officers were re-elected. The calendar of the main events of the year was arranged: Junior Church Anniversary 29th April, Young People's Sunday on 17th June, Harvest Festival on 23rd September and Autumn Fair on 17th November.

Thanks were expressed to all those who had helped in the work of decorating the schoolroom and kitchen and to the Women's Guild and the Busy Bees who had respectively borne the cost of the paint and of the new sink unit and floor covering.

A TALE OF WOE

The February Guild Meeting was held in a state of chaos for although the schoolroom decoration had been completed, that in the kitchen had not. There had been one or two snags here. The laminate for the tops had not arrived and it took two weeks for the Water Board to come and put a new washer on the mains stop tap. When they arrived they broke the tap and so we had no water for the Birthday supper. Fortunately Mrs. Priestley who lives next door came to the rescue and supplied water not only for the brew but also for the crockery and cutlery used for the pie and pea supper. Still, there are worse things in this hard world.

Pleased to report that the laminate has arrived, tap is mended and the job should be completed by the time this article is published (Is it?) The Pilots have washed the vestry walls for us and we are very grateful. Now we have two posh rooms and it makes all the others look worse. have we any volunteers to wash down the gloss paint in the staircase and upper school?

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

March 4th	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Duffy
11th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
18th	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
25th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
April 1st	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth

ELDERS ROTA
EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

PIANIST/ORGANIST
EVENING WORSHIP

March 4th	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan
11th	Mr. G. Whitworth	Mrs. C. Hey
18th	Mr. R. Gillon	Mr. J. Emmott
25th	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. C. Hey
April 1st	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

March 4th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. A. Roberts
April 1st	Mr. K. Hey	Mr. G. Whitworth

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

March 4th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
11th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. A. Roberts
18th	Mrs. K. Reid	Mrs. P. Royle
25th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
April 1st	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

Please make every effort to attend Sunday Worship, particularly in the evening.

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CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

March 4th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. J. Holt
11th	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. H.N. Hill
18th	Mr. B. Hill	Mr. F. Beattie
25th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mr. E. Holt
April 1st	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mr. J. Holt

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

March 11th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. J. Lord 6.00 pm.
25th	Mr. W. Barker	Mr. F. Ingham 10.30

COFFEE ROTA

March 4th	Mrs. J. Allison	Mrs. B. Leach
11th	Mrs. V. Crossley	Mrs. J. Simpson
18th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mrs. B. Holt
25th	Mrs. S. Moss	Mrs. J. Hobbs
April 1st	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. A. Morrick

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

March 4th	"Man and God co-operate" John 6: 1-13	Mrs. H. Vincent
11th	"The Messiah recognized" Mark 8: 27-38	Martin Law
18th	"The leader calls" Mark 1: 14-20	Mrs. P. Lightfoot
25th	"The power at work among us" Ephesians 3: 1-21	Mrs. K. Hill
April 1st		Carl Mallinson

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

March

Fri.	2nd	7.30 pm.	District Meeting at St. Stephen's
Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	Revd. A. Evans (Middleton)
		6.00 pm.	Revd. W. Purvis (Bury) (Service of Word & Sacrament)
Mon.	5th	6.30 pm.	Pilots (and each Monday)
Tues.	6th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild - Mrs.G.Saunders
Sun.	11th	11.00 am.	Mr. T.L. Baxter
		6.00 pm.	Student (Manchaster College)
Wed.	14th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	18th	11.00 am.	Mr. J. Thexton (Whitefield)
		6.00 pm.	Film Service
Sun.	25th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Mr. J. Lord
Fri.	30th	7.30 pm.	"Yugoslavia" (Slides presented by Mr. & Mrs. R. Gillon)..12p

April

Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Lay Preacher
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. L. Baron (Bolton)
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild (Mrs. D. Hayhurst: Peru)

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COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

March 4th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
11th	Miss M. Wood	
18th	Mrs. A. Tither	Mrs. J. Harrison
25th	Miss I. Tither	Mrs.B.Shackleton
	Mrs. A. Baines	
April 1st	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. E. King

OFFERTORIES

	Cash a.m.	Cash p.m.	Envelopes	Total
January	£12.62½	£5.29	£55.18½	£73.10
February	14.82	4.61	63.62	83.05

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

March

Thur. 1st	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Fri. 2nd	7.30 pm.	District Meeting at St.Stephen's
Sun. 4th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues. 6th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild Annual Meeting
Thur. 8th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 11th	10.30 am.	Student (Manchester College)
	6.00 pm.	Rev. R.A.C. West M.A.(Communion) (Induction/Ordination of Elders)
Thur.15th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 18th	10.30 am.	Mr. D.S. Nuttall
Tues.20th	7.30 pm.	Film Evening "WHICH WILL HE HAVE"
Thur.22nd	7.00 pm.	Pilots
	8.00 pm.	Men's Fellowship -Mr. Rex Moore
Sun. 25th	10.30 am.	Mr. J.M. Farraday (Family Communion)
Tues.27th	7.45 pm.	CHURCH MEETING
Thur.29th	7.00 pm.	Pilots

April

Sun. 1st	10.30 am.	To be announced
Tues. 3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

March 4th	Mrs. E. Jackson
11th	Mrs. H. Walker
18th	Mrs. Crossley & Mrs. Williams
25th	Mrs. Wade
April 1st	Mrs. N. Cockcroft

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
February 4th	£2.23½	£11.65½
11th	5.17	16.83

C.C.W.M. Boxes £20 (January)

National Childrens Home - Annual House to House collection is fortnight commencing April 2nd. Anyone willing to help with delivery and collection of envelopes please contact Mrs. K. Hill as soon as possible.

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

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MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory

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